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SOURCE Meditinskiy Rabotnik.CRITICISM OF THE WORK OF CERTAIN USSR MEDICAL INSTITUTES

The 19th Congress of the Communist Party, held in October 1952, paid particular attention to scientific developments. The account given to the congress by the Central Committee in the form of G. M. Malenkov's report pointed out the necessity of advancing the progressive science of the USSR, so that it will occupy the first place in the ranks of world science. Some medical scientific institutions have proved equal to the tasks which must be accomplished in that direction, and have achieved signal successes in recent years. For instance, the Institute of Epidemiology and Microbiology imeni N. F. Gamaleya, Academy of Medical Sciences USSR, has accomplished much in improving the prophylaxis of infectious diseases and in advancing the understanding of a number of theoretical problems of microbiology and epidemiology from the materialistic viewpoint. The All-Union Scientific Research Chemicopharmaceutical Institute imeni S. Ordzhonikidze (VNIKhPTI) is doing good work on the development of valuable therapeutic agents. The work of these two institutes strikes a correct balance between theory and practice, so that the results are of immediate value from the standpoint of practical application.

On the other hand, the activity of many scientific research institutes and laboratories is as yet of negligible value for public health. This applies to a number of republic and oblast institutes of occupational hygiene and occupational diseases; of microbiology, epidemiology, and hygiene; and of protection for mothers and children. The extent of the technical equipment and the level of the staff's professional qualifications are so low at some of these institutes that doubts arise as to whether any useful purpose is served by keeping the institutes in question in existence. For instance, the Institute of Epidemiology, Microbiology, and Hygiene, Ministry of Public Health Estonian SSR, cannot possibly render any assistance to public health organs because it does not have a single person with a scientific degree among the members of its staff.

There is an alarming lack of emphasis on investigations aiming at the perfection of prophylactic methods, and this applies even to institutions where this subdivision of work forms the main field of endeavor. Problems of prophylaxis, particularly prophylaxis of industrial traumas, are not studied adequately by the

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Leningrad Institute of Occupational Hygiene and Occupational Diseases and the Leningrad Institute of Traumatology and Orthopedics imeni Vreden. As before, insufficient attention is being paid to investigations on the prophylaxis of diseases of the cardiovascular system and prophylaxis of malignant tumors, influenza, and angina.

The following disciplines, which are important from the standpoint of public health practice, are being neglected: theory and organization of Soviet public health, sanitary statistics, hygiene of mental work, occupational physiology, ~~physical exercise and sports~~, and several others.

There is still a great difference between the quality of the medical service enjoyed by the population of large cities and that of the medical service available to inhabitants of villages. The reason is that information on the latest achievements of medical science reaches practical physicians with a great delay. These achievements are not applied soon enough in the everyday work of therapeutic and prophylactic institutions.

The Institute of Tuberculosis of the Academy of Medical Sciences USSR, the Second Moscow Medical Institute imeni I. V. Stalin, the Leningrad Institute of Tuberculosis of the Bones and Joints, and the Tomsk Institute of Vaccines and Sera are outstanding in that members of their staffs do everything they can to transfer results of scientific work into medical practice and to acquaint public health workers with these results. Some other institutes, e.g., the Central Roentgenological, Radiological, and Cancer Institute at Leningrad and the Kuban' Medical Institute, neglect this important aspect of medical work.

This criticism also applies to many higher medical educational institutions, while at others (e.g., the Kiev Medical Institute and the Azerbaydzhan Medical Institute) the professors and instructors render scientific aid to practical physicians and help them in the scientific interpretation of medical work.

The inadequate practical utilization of the results of scientific medical research work is due to organizational and administrative shortcomings. The specialized [branch] administrations of the Ministry of Public Health USSR do not direct the activities of scientific institutes properly. Life demands that new, more perfect methods for the organization and coordination of scientific research should be devised and applied. It is necessary to increase the authority of the Presidium of the Academy of Medical Sciences USSR and of the Scientific Medical Council, Ministry of Public Health USSR. It is also necessary to transform into permanent organs the commissions on special problems which are attached to these two institutions.

The scientific research done by chairs of higher medical educational institutions must be improved. Notwithstanding the fact that the best, most highly qualified scientists work at medical educational institutions, conditions that would be conducive to a high output of scientific research are often absent there.

Finally, better coordination must be achieved between the work done by institutions that are subordinate to different administrations.

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